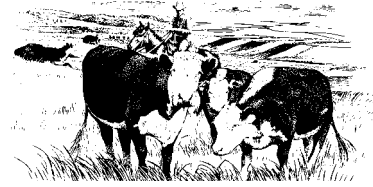


# California Livestock Review



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## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 9 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 11.8 million head on April 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above April 1, 2005 and 10 percent above April 1, 2004. This is the highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.74 million steers and steer calves, up 11 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.00 million head, up 5 percent from 2005. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.84 million, 5 percent above 2005 and 1 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.75 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 342 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 565 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 550 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.96 million, down slightly from 2005 and slightly below 2004. Other disappearance totaled 90.0 thousand during March, 32 percent above 2005 and 34 percent above 2004.

## CATTLE ON FEED IN CALIFORNIA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 535 thousand head on April 1, 2006, 3 percent below the previous month, but 7 percent above April 2005. During March, placements of 59.0 thousand head were 9 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 68.0 thousand head were 3 percent below March of 2005. Other disappearance totaled 6.00 thousand head.

## NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES

| State         | Number On Feed March 1 a/           |        |                           | Placed During March |           | Marketed During March |       |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
|               | 2005                                | 2006   | 2006/2005                 | 2005                | 2006      | 2005                  | 2006  |
|               | 1,000 Head                          |        |                           |                     |           |                       |       |
| Arizona       | 324                                 | 351    | 108                       | 27                  | 30        | 24                    | 28    |
| California    | 515                                 | 550    | 107                       | 65                  | 59        | 70                    | 68    |
| Colorado      | 1,040                               | 1,090  | 105                       | 165                 | 155       | 175                   | 165   |
| Idaho         | 250                                 | 255    | 102                       | 44                  | 42        | 53                    | 45    |
| Iowa          | 465                                 | 520    | 112                       | 55                  | 55        | 64                    | 73    |
| Kansas        | 2,370                               | 2,610  | 110                       | 445                 | 480       | 460                   | 470   |
| Nebraska      | 2,320                               | 2,450  | 106                       | 300                 | 335       | 350                   | 370   |
| New Mexico    | 125                                 | 143    | 114                       | 13                  | 21        | 23                    | 23    |
| Oklahoma      | 340                                 | 365    | 107                       | 61                  | 68        | 73                    | 72    |
| South Dakota  | 210                                 | 210    | 100                       | 31                  | 36        | 34                    | 35    |
| Texas         | 2,690                               | 3,010  | 112                       | 480                 | 485       | 540                   | 540   |
| Washington    | 185                                 | 154    | 83                        | 22                  | 26        | 47                    | 27    |
| Other States  | 320                                 | 315    | 98                        | 42                  | 45        | 50                    | 42    |
| UNITED STATES | 11,154                              | 12,023 | 108                       | 1,750               | 1,837     | 1,963                 | 1,958 |
| State         | Other Disappearance During March b/ |        | Number On Feed April 1 a/ |                     | 2006/2005 |                       |       |
|               | 2005                                | 2006   | 2005                      | 2006                |           |                       |       |
|               | 1,000 Head                          |        |                           |                     |           | Percent               |       |
| Arizona       | 1                                   | 2      | 326                       | 351                 | 108       |                       |       |
| California    | 10                                  | 6      | 500                       | 535                 | 107       |                       |       |
| Colorado      | 10                                  | 10     | 1,020                     | 1,070               | 105       |                       |       |
| Idaho         | 1                                   | 2      | 240                       | 250                 | 104       |                       |       |
| Iowa          | 1                                   | 2      | 455                       | 500                 | 110       |                       |       |
| Kansas        | 15                                  | 30     | 2,340                     | 2,590               | 111       |                       |       |
| Nebraska      | 10                                  | 15     | 2,260                     | 2,400               | 106       |                       |       |
| New Mexico    | 2                                   | 2      | 113                       | 139                 | 123       |                       |       |
| Oklahoma      | 3                                   | 1      | 325                       | 360                 | 111       |                       |       |
| South Dakota  | 2                                   | 1      | 205                       | 210                 | 102       |                       |       |
| Texas         | 10                                  | 15     | 2,620                     | 2,940               | 112       |                       |       |
| Washington    | 1                                   | 1      | 159                       | 152                 | 96        |                       |       |
| Other States  | 2                                   | 3      | 310                       | 315                 | 102       |                       |       |
| UNITED STATES | 68                                  | 90     | 10,873                    | 11,812              | 109       |                       |       |

a/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

b/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

# CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced a record 3.43 billion pounds of milk in March 2006. This was 13 percent above February 2006 and 6 percent above March 2005.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,920 pounds, 215 pounds more than in February 2006 and 70 pounds more than a year ago.

## MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

| Month | CALIFORNIA <u>1/</u> |       |                        |       |                           |       | Total Milk Receipts <u>5/</u> |       | UNITED STATES <u>1/ 2/</u> |       |                        |       |                           |        |
|-------|----------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|---------------------------|--------|
|       | Milk Cows <u>3/</u>  |       | Milk Per Cow <u>4/</u> |       | Milk Production <u>4/</u> |       |                               |       | Milk Cows <u>3/</u>        |       | Milk Per Cow <u>4/</u> |       | Milk Production <u>4/</u> |        |
|       | 2005                 | 2006  | 2005                   | 2006  | 2005                      | 2006  | 2005                          | 2006  | 2005                       | 2006  | 2005                   | 2006  | 2005                      | 2006   |
|       | 1,000 Head           |       | Pounds                 |       | Million Pounds            |       | 1,000 Head                    |       | Pounds                     |       | Million Pounds         |       |                           |        |
| Jan.  | 1,739                | 1,776 | 1,770                  | 1,825 | 3,078                     | 3,241 | 3,076                         | 3,239 | 8,087                      | 8,195 | 1,643                  | 1,710 | 13,287                    | 14,014 |
| Feb.  | 1,742                | 1,782 | 1,635                  | 1,705 | 2,848                     | 3,038 | 2,845                         | 3,037 | 8,084                      | 8,206 | 1,522                  | 1,587 | 12,301                    | 13,022 |
| Mar.  | 1,744                | 1,785 | 1,850                  | 1,920 | 3,226                     | 3,427 | 3,223                         |       | 8,099                      | 8,223 | 1,707                  | 1,773 | 13,825                    | 14,579 |
| Apr.  | 1,751                |       | 1,820                  |       | 3,187                     |       | 3,184                         |       | 8,117                      |       | 1,690                  |       | 13,717                    |        |
| May   | 1,754                |       | 1,875                  |       | 3,289                     |       | 3,288                         |       | 8,131                      |       | 1,760                  |       | 14,311                    |        |
| June  | 1,757                |       | 1,810                  |       | 3,180                     |       | 3,178                         |       | 8,138                      |       | 1,690                  |       | 13,755                    |        |
| July  | 1,760                |       | 1,775                  |       | 3,124                     |       | 3,122                         |       | 8,151                      |       | 1,683                  |       | 13,715                    |        |
| Aug.  | 1,763                |       | 1,790                  |       | 3,156                     |       | 3,153                         |       | 8,162                      |       | 1,671                  |       | 13,640                    |        |
| Sept. | 1,765                |       | 1,745                  |       | 3,080                     |       | 3,079                         |       | 8,167                      |       | 1,599                  |       | 13,057                    |        |
| Oct.  | 1,770                |       | 1,780                  |       | 3,151                     |       | 3,147                         |       | 8,168                      |       | 1,637                  |       | 13,373                    |        |
| Nov.  | 1,770                |       | 1,725                  |       | 3,053                     |       | 3,049                         |       | 8,167                      |       | 1,592                  |       | 13,002                    |        |
| Dec.  | 1,770                |       | 1,795                  |       | 3,177                     |       | 3,178                         |       | 8,179                      |       | 1,663                  |       | 13,599                    |        |

1/ Data was revised for February of 2005 and 2006.

2/ Twenty-three-state total.

3/ Includes dry cows, but excludes heifers not yet fresh.

4/ Excludes milk suckled by calves.

5/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling branches. Excludes on-farm usage.

## AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES 1/

| Commodity             | Unit | CALIFORNIA |               |                | UNITED STATES |               |                |
|-----------------------|------|------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                       |      | March 2005 | February 2006 | March 15, 2006 | March 2005    | February 2006 | March 15, 2006 |
|                       |      | Dollars    |               |                |               |               |                |
| All Hay, Baled 2/     | Tons | 128.00     | 130.00        | 136.00         | 92.60         | 95.00         | 97.10          |
| Alfalfa, Baled 2/     | Tons | 133.00     | 136.00        | 141.00         | 98.60         | 99.20         | 100.00         |
| Hogs 2/ 3/            | Cwt. | ---        | ---           | ---            | 51.20         | 42.60         | 42.40          |
| Cows 2/               | Cwt. | 49.40      | 46.80         | 48.70          | 55.00         | 49.70         | 49.90          |
| Steers and Heifers 2/ | Cwt. | 92.60      | 94.80         | 91.90          | 95.20         | 97.80         | 94.10          |
| Calves 2/             | Cwt. | 121.00     | 131.00        | 124.00         | 136.00        | 142.00        | 138.00         |
| Sheep 2/              | Cwt. | 43.00      | 48.50         | ---            | 49.00         | 46.00         | ---            |
| Lambs 2/              | Cwt. | 103.00     | 86.50         | ---            | 114.00        | 96.80         | ---            |
| Milk Cows 4/          | Head | ---        | ---           | ---            | ---           | ---           | ---            |
| All Milk Whsle. 2/    | Cwt. | 14.22      | 11.72         | 11.10          | 15.60         | 13.50         | 12.80          |

1/ The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

4/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July, and October.

## U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

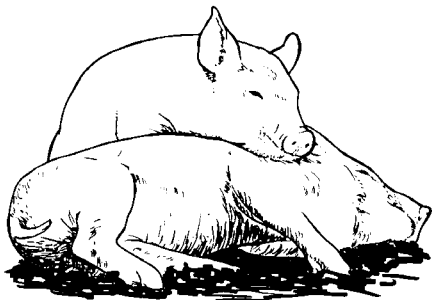
U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2006 was 60.1 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2005, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 6.03 million head, was 1 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The December 2005-February 2006 pig crop, at 25.7 million head, was up 1 percent from 2005 and 2 percent above 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, up slightly from both 2004 and 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the December 2005-February 2006 period, compared to 8.94 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5.00 thousand hogs and pigs.

**U.S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, MARCH 1, 2004-06**

| Item   | 2004       | 2005   | 2006   | <u>2006</u><br>2004 | <u>2006</u><br>2005 |
|--|------------|--------|--------|---------------------|---------------------|
|  | 1,000 Head |        |        | Percent             |                     |
| <b>March 1 Inventory</b>                         |            |        |        |                     |                     |
| All Hogs and Pigs                                | 59,520     | 59,699 | 60,104 | 101                 | 101                 |
| Kept for Breeding                                | 5,961      | 5,941  | 6,025  | 101                 | 101                 |
| Market   | 53,558     | 53,757 | 54,079 | 101                 | 101                 |
| <b>Market Hogs and Pigs<br/>By Weight Groups</b> |            |        |        |                     |                     |
| Under 60 Pounds                                  | 19,823     | 19,667 | 19,838 | 100                 | 101                 |
| 60-119 Pounds                                    | 12,954     | 13,087 | 13,114 | 101                 | 100                 |
| 120-179 Pounds                                   | 11,205     | 11,360 | 11,317 | 101                 | 100                 |
| 180 Pounds and Over                              | 9,578      | 9,644  | 9,811  | 102                 | 102                 |



## CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during March 2006 totaled 144 million pounds (dressed weight), 24 percent above the previous month and 14 percent above March 2005. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In March 2006, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,406 pounds, calves were 158 pounds, and hogs were 247 pounds.

## U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION AT RECORD HIGH FOR MARCH

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.11 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in March 2005.

Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.85 million head, up 5 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year to 1,273 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, slightly above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59.2 thousand head, down 13 percent from March 2005. The average live weight, at 370 pounds, was 42 pounds above last year.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, 3 percent above March 2005. The average live weight was 272 pounds, 1 pound above the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 6 percent from March 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 250 thousand head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2006 commercial red meat production was 11.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 4 percent, and lamb and mutton production was up slightly.

March 2005 and 2006 both contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays.

**COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER,  
CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, MARCH 2005-06 <sup>1/</sup>**

| Species<br>and<br>Location   | Number<br>Slaughtered |                                | Total<br>Live Weight |                    | Average<br>Live Weight |       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|
|                              | 2005                  | 2006                           | 2005                 | 2006               | 2005                   | 2006  |
|                              | 1,000 Head            |                                | 1,000 Pounds         |                    | Pounds                 |       |
| <b>CATTLE</b>                |                       |                                |                      |                    |                        |       |
| California                   | 117.3                 | 130.1                          | 151,807              | 182,914            | 1,294                  | 1,406 |
| U.S.                         | 2,725.1               | 2,852.4                        | 3,369,749            | 3,630,357          | 1,237                  | 1,273 |
| <b>CALVES</b>                |                       |                                |                      |                    |                        |       |
| California                   | 9.6                   | 7.1                            | 1,212                | 1,125              | 127                    | 158   |
| U.S.                         | 68.0                  | 59.2                           | 22,300               | 21,886             | 328                    | 370   |
| <b>SHEEP &amp;<br/>LAMBS</b> |                       |                                |                      |                    |                        |       |
| California                   | ---                   | ---                            | ---                  | ---                | ---                    | ---   |
| U.S.                         | 280.1                 | 249.7                          | 38,819               | 36,327             | 139                    | 145   |
| <b>HOGS</b>                  |                       |                                |                      |                    |                        |       |
| California                   | 219.8                 | 231.2                          | 54,086               | 57,167             | 246                    | 247   |
| U.S.                         | 8,949.7               | 9,234.1                        | 2,423,674            | 2,510,925          | 271                    | 272   |
| <b>RED<br/>MEAT</b>          | March<br>2005         | February<br>2006 <sup>2/</sup> | March<br>2006        | Mar. 06<br>Mar. 05 | Mar. 06<br>Feb. 06     |       |
|                              | Million Pounds        |                                |                      | Percent            |                        |       |
| California                   | 126.2                 | 115.9                          | 144.1                | 114                | 124                    |       |
| U.S.                         | 3,878.1               | 3,483.9                        | 4,111.7              | 106                | 118                    |       |

<sup>1/</sup> Farm slaughter excluded.

<sup>2/</sup> Revised.